

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 6

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Accompanying the second recommendation of the Board of Education (House, No. 4). Public Service.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

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### AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL GROUP INSURANCE COMMITTEES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Chapter 32B of the General Laws, as appearing  
2 in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the  
3 following:—

4     Section 3B. (a) Upon acceptance of this section as hereinafter  
5 provided, a governmental unit shall establish and maintain a com-  
6 mittee, known as the group insurance committee. Said committee  
7 will be comprised of 7 members as follows: 4 persons to be  
8 appointed by the appropriate public authority, 2 persons to be  
9 elected by organizations of the governmental unit's employees,  
10 and 1 person who shall be a retiree of the governmental unit and  
11 who shall be appointed to membership on such committee by the  
12 appropriate public authority. Four members of the committee shall  
13 constitute a quorum. The committee may act upon a majority vote  
14 of a quorum at any meeting held in conformity with section 23B  
15 of chapter 39.

16     (b) The group insurance committee shall have plenary authority  
17 to require changes in the design of any and all group general or  
18 blanket hospital, surgical, medical, dental and other health insur-  
19 ance plans, including the services of a health care organization,  
20 and including coverage offered on a self-funded basis pursuant to  
21 sections 3A, 11 or 12; provided however that this authority shall  
22 not include adjustments to the municipality and employee pre-  
23 mium contributions. The plan design changes that may be  
24 required may include, but not be limited to, changes to co-pay

25 amounts and deductibles. Such changes as the group insurance  
26 committee requires shall be (1) effective as of the date voted by  
27 the committee, (2) not subject to any amendments by the appro-  
28 priate public authority and (3) shall not be subject to collective  
29 bargaining pursuant to Chapter 150E.

30 (c) This section shall take effect in a county, city, town or dis-  
31 trict upon its acceptance in the following manner: in a county, by  
32 a vote of the county commissioners; in a city having a Plan D or a  
33 Plan E charter, by a majority vote of its city council and approved  
34 by the manager; in any other city by majority vote of its city  
35 council and approved by the mayor; in a town, by vote of the town  
36 meeting or town council; in a regional school district, by vote of  
37 the regional district school committee; and in all other districts, by  
38 vote of the registered voters of the district at a district meeting.

1 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the  
2 contrary, for fiscal years 2008 and thereafter, the amount allocated  
3 to each district's foundation budget pursuant to the definition of  
4 employee benefits and fixed charges allotment as specified in  
5 section 2 of chapter 70 of the General Laws shall be increased by  
6 5 per cent on a county, city, town or district's acceptance and  
7 implementation of subsections (a) and (b) of section 3B of  
8 chapter 32B.